

MAKE WELFARE A CASHLESS
SYSTEM

□ 1150

(Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, we must take cash out of our current welfare system and replace it with a debit card. Welfare dollars are taxpayers' dollars, and we need and deserve to have a proper accounting of these funds.

A Columbia University study claimed that 25 percent of welfare recipients are drug abusers. If you have high unemployment, high drug trafficking, and high welfare use in our cities, where is the money coming from? It is obvious that we, as taxpayers, are inadvertently fueling our criminal drug industry by welfare.

A picture debit card system will help solve this problem, since drug dealers do not take American Express or any other form of plastic. The proper dispensing of welfare funds by electronic transfer will improve our housing stock in our cities, lower our utility bills for our elderly, help make the banking industry more efficient, and, most importantly, allow our children to receive their due assistance. This could be the best form of eradicating welfare fraud.

INSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL
DISCRIMINATION ALIVE AND
WELL IN BUTLER, GA

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, while many people in this House feel that institutional and political discrimination are a thing of the past, I would like to draw their attention to the tiny town of Butler, GA. After 10 years of no elections, the town of Butler will finally have free and fair elections which do not exclude its 46 percent black population from being represented.

The Eleventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had to order the town's all-white council to open its polls and put an end to rigging elections that kept African-Americans off the town council.

To my Republican colleagues who are anxious to repeal motor-voter, the Americans With Disabilities Act, and the voting rights acts, I say beware. We spend billions of dollars every year to protect and promote democracy abroad, and you want to spend billions more for a star wars defense of democracy at home.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that we are yet to achieve democracy and equality right here at home, and the last thing we need is a bunch of politicians saying that inequality and injustice at home are all right with them.

REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT
OF PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION
OF A CERTAIN AMENDMENT
TO H.R. 666, EXCLUSIONARY
RULE REFORM ACT OF 1995

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House resolves itself into the Committee of the Whole and takes up H.R. 666, there be a time limitation on my amendment of 50 minutes, divided equally between myself and an opponent to the amendment, and that no amendments be permitted to my amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAZIO of New York). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I do intend to object, mainly because I do not mind negotiating on limiting time on an amendment, but I do mind limiting the ability for Members to amend the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SCHIFF].

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I just want to bring up the fact that the gentleman from Missouri has raised two questions: A motion to limit time and a motion to make his own amendment unamendable. I wonder if the gentleman could explain why the second portion of that request is there.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER].

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I had not planned to. When I first negotiated the time limit, I was going to make it in the Committee of the Whole. And it was only going to be basically on 45 minutes. And then I thought 50 minutes was easier to divide than 45.

But from that side of the aisle I heard that some member of the committee from that side of the aisle may even try to preempt me on this amendment or there may be amendments to my amendment or there may be other things to take away my amendment.

Now, I have worked up this amendment, and I would like to have the opportunity to offer it. I am just trying to preclude that and restate my stand on one issue, and that is the BATF. I would just talk about that and limit the time.

I am willing to limit the time as long as we can do that, but if we are going to be getting into a wrangle on this thing, then I am not going to agree to a time limit.

Does the gentleman understand that? We may be here 3 or 4 hours.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, I understand the gentleman's concern about the time limit. And I might concur and negotiate with the gentleman over a time limit, but if the gentleman would have consulted with the majority on

his amendment, I think the majority could have worked with him.

There are many Members on our side that do not want to be limited in being able to amend the gentleman's amendment or even substitute for the gentleman's amendment, or in some cases members of the committee may want to offer the gentleman's amendment, members who are in agreement with the gentleman.

I think it is the privilege of the majority to ask for cooperation and ask for negotiation on unanimous-consent requests.

Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK].

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, several things the gentleman said made some sense to me, but then I thought I heard the gentleman say some members of the majority might want to offer the gentleman's amendment. That one seemed a little disturbing. The gentleman from Missouri has been working on this amendment. The gentleman is saying that some members of the majority have plans to sort of show the respect for intellectual property rights of the Chinese Government and steal the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I would not characterize it, in responding to the gentleman, as stealing the gentleman's amendment. There are many on our side of the aisle that feel like they could support the gentleman's amendment if it was changed in certain ways. We want the opportunity to investigate that and to do that. To just arbitrarily say that we cannot amend the gentleman's amendment or substitute for it or do something else with it, we just cannot agree to that.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, then I misunderstood. There is no effort to try to preempt the gentleman's right to offer that amendment as his amendment since he is the one who came up with it.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I think those Members that are on the Committee on the Judiciary, by the rules and by tradition, have the right to be recognized before the gentleman from Missouri. And whether a Member from that committee offers whatever amendment that may pertain to the substance of the gentleman's amendment, we are not prepared right now to say whether that is going to happen or not.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. So the gentleman would have to satisfy himself with that flattery which imitation is the sincerest form of?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure I understood the gentleman's question.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I apologize for being unclear. The gentleman from Missouri, having come up with this, the notion that he has to come up with the amendment, having